

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM  
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

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**Project Details**

**1. Project title:**

OREGON HEALTH PROFESSIONS CAREER LADDER TRAINING PROGRAM

**2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):**

Oregon Health Career Center  
25195 SW Parkway Ave. #204  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

**3. Contact information**

- a. Project's primary contact:** Gary W. Wappes
- b. Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:**  
Office: 503.682.1300 x104  
[REDACTED]
- c. Email Address:** gwappes@ohcc.org
- d. Project location** (if different than organization's address):

This is a statewide jobs creation program. It is specifically designed to train low-income incumbent workers for professional, family-wage jobs in Oregon's safety-net community health centers, mental health facilities and small community hospitals.

**4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.**

The Oregon Health Career Center (OHCC) is a partnership between Oregon's healthcare provider and healthcare educational communities. We provide a pipeline of services to bring young people into health careers – and develop innovative programs to address Oregon's healthcare workforce shortages – particularly in underserved and rural communities.

For the past nine years we have operated the ground-breaking N2K Nursing Education Program, a program in which hospitals and community health centers sponsor their employees in employer-paid nursing education programs that bring these employees into family-wage nursing professions in their home workplaces and communities.

**5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?**

We are an Oregon private not-for-profit organization.

**6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?**

**7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

Oregon's Community Health Centers, mental health hospitals and small community hospitals have historically struggled to find and hire nurses and other critical healthcare professionals. Many of these employers require providers who speak English and a second language in order to provide quality care for their patients. Others work with challenging patient populations, or are in isolated rural communities where small populations make it difficult to recruit providers. All struggle with an inability to compete with larger institutions for salaries and benefits.

- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) currently provide primary care services to 20,000,000 Americans. That is a 20% increase just this past year.
- The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) projects that the number of patients will increase by 70% (12,000,000) in the next five years.
- Significant increases in annual spending on patient treatment for FQHC's are included in the Administration Budget.
- FQHCs struggle more than most to find qualified providers: they often require providers who are bilingual, and rarely can match earnings that providers can make in the private sector.
- Other sectors that struggle with similar limitations include:
  - Public Health
  - Public Mental Health Facilities
  - Rural and Frontier Hospitals

This project will pilot a program with national implications that helps employers support current employees who are in low-paying, entry-level jobs to prepare for stable, family-wage positions in high demand health professions, based on a successful grow-your-own model.

Our employer-paid N2K Nursing Education Program has produced many nurses for Oregon's community hospitals. Though employers can pay for the nursing education portion of the program, many employees, who must continue working to support their families, have limited access, time and money to complete the extensive prerequisites required to qualify for nursing school.

These funds will pay for a Distance Learning-based prerequisite program, designed to complement the work schedules and geography of participants. Tutors, distance learning experts and counselors will be available to participants both on-line and on-site in their workplace and home communities. At least 40 individuals will complete the 12 month pilot program and then be eligible to enroll in the employer-paid Nursing School component.

Strategies that the Oregon Health Career Center will use to help insure student success include internal career ladders for incumbent workers, a strong mentoring and tutoring program, flexible work schedules and employer support, online learning opportunities, employee-friendly cohort education design, and more.

The project is designed to prepare 40 individuals for allied health and nursing schools, and bring 32 individuals through nursing school and into Registered Nursing positions. (Remaining students will enter other allied health programs, such as radiologic technologist.) We estimate that at least one fourth of those 32 nurses will be employed in the Third District.

**8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The project is designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of a cohort-based distance education model to prepare incumbent workers for professional healthcare education. The project leverages taxpayer funds efficiently to generate private sector matching funds and private sector jobs. This project will utilize state (7%), federal (38%) and private employer funding (55%) to create 32 new nurses for rural and underserved Oregon. Federal matching support now will result in significant future private sector-paid investments in this model by employers.

In addition to these individuals moving into family-wage nursing careers, their moves will open entry level jobs that can then be filled by other members of the community.

**9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? No**

**9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

**Funding Details**

**10. Amount requested for this project: \$489,831**

**11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

\$209,484	Staff
\$12,500	On line learning and project design consultants
\$24,000	Staff travel
\$191,200	Student educational, tuition, tutoring and travel costs
<u>\$52,648</u>	<u>Occupancy, usage and agency overhead expenses</u>
\$489,831	Total amount requested

*Note: all costs are for an 18 month project period.*

**12. What is the total cost of the project? \$1,294,731**

**13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011)?**

We can reduce the request to \$438,207 if we train 30 workers, rather than 40.

**14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)**

The State of Oregon, Department of Community Colleges & Workforce Development will fund the development of the statewide faculty for the program: \$84,900

Hospitals and Community Health Centers will fund the 18 month Nursing Education component of the project that will immediately follow this phase: \$720,000

**15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.**

The Oregon Health Professions Career Ladder Training Program is strongly supported and endorsed by:

- The Oregon Dept. of Community Colleges & Workforce Development
- The Oregon Association of Hospitals & Health Systems
- The Oregon Office of Rural Health
- The Oregon Primary Care Association
- The Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute
- Numerous individual hospitals and Community Health Centers